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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,583	01/29/2004	Fred Reed	706767US1	6180

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EXAMINER

LAO, LUN YI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,583

Applicant(s)

REED ET AL.

Examiner

LUN-YI LAO

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/29/04 and 7/14/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 7-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hengst(6,005,299).

As to claims 1-2, 7-8 and 13, Hengst teaches a human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.)(see figures 3-4 and column 4, lines 58-63), the interface comprising: a knob(1) which is bidirectionally rotatable(8, 9) at a rest level(central position or 10) and a pressed level; a selected one of the vehicle functions being selected by the knob(1) at the rest level(central position or 10) and the selected one of the vehicle functions being controlled by the knob(1) at the pressed level(see figures 1-3; column 1, lines 49-53; column 3, lines 13-27 and column 4, lines 1-46).

As to claims 7 and 13, Hengst teach a human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.)(see figures 3-4 and column 4, lines 58-63); the interface comprising: a knob(1) which is bidirectionally rotatable at a first level and a second level(pressed level); a selected one of the

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vehicle functions(radio, map, navigation, etc.) being selected by the knob(1) at the first level; and the selected one of the vehicle functions being controlled by the knob at the second level(see figures 1-3; column 1, lines 49-53; column 3, lines 13-27 and column 4, lines 1-46).

As to claims 2 and 8, Hengst teaches vehicle functions is associated with a detent position(10) of the knob at the rest level(central position)(see figures 1-4 and column 4, lines 11-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst in view of Bollgoth et al(6,769,320).

As to claims 3-5 and 9-11, Hengst fails to disclose an annunciator or a display screen indicating a selection function.

Bollgoth et al an annunciator(48A-48D) or display screen(44) for indicating a selection function(e.g, CD2)(see figures 2-3; column 5, lines 55-64 and column 6, lines 5-33). It would have been obvious to have modified Hengst with the teaching of Bollgoth et al, so as to provide a selection confirmation to a user.

As to claims 5 and 11, Bollgohn et al teach an indicator for indicating an on/off function(see figures 2-3; column 5, lines 59-64 and column 7, lines 10-17).

5. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst in view of Goldenberg et al(6,636,197).

As to claims 6 and 12, Hengst fails to disclose the selected functions having a fan speed and a temperature.

Goldenberg et al teach a knob(26) for selecting fan speed and temperature Functions(see figures 1-3; column 5, lines 57-68; column 7, lines 8-18 and column 22, lines 49-53). It would have been obvious to have modified Hengst with the teaching of Goldenberg et al, so as to provide more controlling function to a user.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Heimerann et al(US 20040046751) teaches a knob for controlling vehicle functions.

Marks et al(20020032019) teaches a knob for controlling vehicle functions.

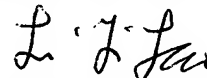
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lun-yi Lao whose telephone number is 571-272-7671. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 29, 2007



Lun-yi Lao
Primary Examiner